

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY CO-SPONSORED BY VANHAAFTEN PASSED OUT OF HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS – Senate Bill 230, legislation that would establish an automated victim notification system, was passed in the Indiana House today. State Rep. Trent VanHaaften (D-Mount Vernon) was a co-sponsor of the bill, which passed 89-0.

The legislation would allow the Department of Correction to create a system where crime victims could be notified if the status of the offender who committed the crime against them changes. This includes if the individual is assigned to a department facility or county jail or is transferred to another facility, is released on temporary leave, is discharged, or has escaped. Victims would be able to register for the service or update their registration by calling a toll-free telephone number.

"It's often difficult for victims of a crime to follow the whereabouts of the offender," said VanHaaften. "Having a victim notification system would allow victims to keep track of their offenders' location and be comforted in knowing that the person who victimized them is under the supervision of the correctional system."

In addition to creating the notification system, the bill would also add registered neighborhoods to the list of entities that periodically receive an updated sex and violent offender directory.

Senate Bill 230 will now be considered by a House-Senate conference committee where the bill will be further debated.